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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

27366

7590

07/10/2008

WESTMAN CHAMPLIN (MICROSOFT CORPORATION)  
SUITE 1400  
900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3244

EXAMINER

CAO, PHUONG THAO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2164

DATE MAILED: 07/10/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/623,168	07/18/2003	Steven V. Hartner	M61.12-0256	2733

TITLE OF INVENTION: PROPERTY AND OBJECT VALIDATION IN A DATABASE SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	10/10/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE** OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to:** Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**  
 or Fax **(571)-273-2885**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

27366 7590 07/10/2008

**WESTMAN CHAMPLIN (MICROSOFT CORPORATION)**  
**SUITE 1400**  
**900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH**  
**MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3244**

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/623,168	07/18/2003	Steven V. Harter	M61.12-0256	2733
TITLE OF INVENTION: PROPERTY AND OBJECT VALIDATION IN A DATABASE SYSTEM				

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	10/10/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
CAO, PHUONG THAO	2164	707-103000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.  
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee  
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.  
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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WESTMAN CHAMPLIN (MICROSOFT CORPORATION)  
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## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 505 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 505 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/623,168

**Applicant(s)**

HARTER, STEVEN V.

**Examiner**

Phuong-Thao Cao

**Art Unit**

2164

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 06/25/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are Claims 12-20, 22 and 23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher L. Holt (Reg. No. 45,844) on July 1, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

A) Claims 12 and 13 have been amended as follows:

12. (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium having instructions comprising a framework for validating data in a database system, the instructions comprising:
- identifying at least one property of an entity to be validated;
  - identifying constraint information;
  - forming an object of said at least one property, wherein identifying constraint information comprises referencing a reference stored within the object, the reference being indicative of the constraint information which is stored outside of the object itself, and wherein the constraint information is referenced within a property validator

Art Unit: 2164

object that is separate from ~~[[both]]~~ the object, and also separate from the entity to be validated; and

applying the constraint information so as to ascertain validity of said at least one property,

wherein identifying constraint information comprises identifying criteria of ~~[[when]]~~ whether a value of the property can be changed, wherein the criteria identifies that the value can be changed as a function of a status value of another property, wherein the status value comprises whether said another property is changeable, and wherein the status value comprises whether said another property is valid.

**13.** (Currently Amended) The computer storage medium of claim 12 and further comprising identifying a validator ~~[[of]]~~ as a function of a type of said at least one property, the validator being of a class of validator.

B) The specification has been amended as follows:

Changes have been made on pages 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 38, 40, 41, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51 of the specification, as follows:

1) On page 16, change "an output peripheral interface 190" (line 11) to "an output peripheral interface 195".

- 2) On page 19, change "EntityCriteria 214" (line 26) to "EntityCriteria 204", and change "WhereExpression 216" (line 30) to "WhereExpression 218".
- 3) On page 20, change "criteria 202" (line 7) to "Criteria 202".
- 4) On page 22, change "CollectionCriteria" (line 6) to "CollectionCriteria 208", and change "EntityCollectType 224" (line 21) to "EntityCollectionType 224".
- 5) On page 23, change "EntitySetUpdateCriteria" (line 1) to "EntitySetUpdateCriteria 212".
- 6) On page 24, insert a period (.) after phrase "elements of the PropertyObject" (line 21).
- 7) On page 38, change "FIG. 11" (line 25) to "FIG. 10".
- 8) On page 40, change "FIG. 11" (line 8) to "FIG. 10", and change "FIG. 11" (line 21) to "FIG. 10".
- 9) On page 41, change "FIG. 11" (line 10) to "FIG. 10".
- 10) On page 44, change "FIG. 12" (line 19) to "FIG. 11", change "FIG. 11" (line 30) to "FIG. 10", and change "FIG. 13" (line 30) to "FIG. 12".
- 11) On page 45, change "FIG. 12" (line 24) to "FIG. 11".
- 12) On page 47, change "FIG. 14" (line 1) to "FIG. 13", change "FIG. 11" (line 19) to "FIG. 10", and change "the Order class 1002" (line 20) to "the Order class 1008".

Art Unit: 2164

13) On page 48, change “FIG. 12” (line 10) to “FIG. 11”, “Serial Number 258” (line 15) to “Serial Number 1058”, “The identifier attribute 322” (line 15) to “The identifier attribute 1122”, “the OrderSerial.Key 280A” (line 16) to “the OrderSerial.Key 1080A”, “keys of 280A” (line 18) to “keys of 1080A”, and “columns 252, 254, 256” (line 18) to “columns 1052, 1054, 1056”.

14) On page 49, change “FIG. 14” (line 30) to “FIG. 13”.

15) On page 50, change “FIG. 15” (line 26) to “FIG. 14”.

16) On page 51, change “FIG 15” (line 2) to “FIG. 14”.

#### **EXAMINER’S REMARK/COMMENT**

Examiner interpreted that Applicant’s “computer storage medium” does not include communication media as defined in specification, page 13.



### EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to a framework for validating property and object in database systems, which allows instantiating a property as a Property object and provides an object-oriented mechanism to identify and apply constraints against the values entered in the properties.

The closest prior art of record, Stewart et al. (US Publication No 2003/0191731) discloses a method/system for rule-based validation prior to committing data to a database system, which implements rules as Rule objects and data as Data objects and using a rule engine to apply Rules to Data within the system.

However, Stewart et al. fails to anticipate or render obvious to the recited features of “forming an object of said at least one property, wherein identifying constraint information comprises referencing a reference stored within the object, the reference being indicative of the constraint information which is stored outside of the object itself, and wherein the constraint information is referenced within a property validator object that is separate from the object, and also separate from the entity to be validated”, and “identifying the constraint information comprises identifying criteria of whether a value of the property can be changed, wherein the criteria identifies that the value can be changed as a function of a status value of another

Art Unit: 2164

property, wherein the status value comprises whether said another property is changeable, and whether the status value comprises whether said another property is valid", as in independent claim 12.

These features, together with other limitations of the independent claim are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. The dependent claims 13-20, 22 and 23 being definite, enabled by the specification, and further limiting to the independent claim, are also allowable

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Phuong-Thao Cao** whose telephone number is (571)272-2735. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Mon - Fri).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Charles Rones** can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Phuong-Thao Cao, Examiner  
Art Unit 2164  
July 2, 2008

/Charles Rones/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2164